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PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW, INCLUDING SYSTEM-WIDE ISSUES: UNIDO PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Report by the Director-General

In compliance with resolution GC.9/Res.3, reports on UNIDO's participation in and contribution to the WSSD process. Also provides information on enhancing UNIDO's profile and on cooperation with other organizations in the system, in line with decision IDB.25/Dec.8.

Introduction

1. At its ninth session, the General Conference adopted resolution GC.9/Res.3 on the United Nations Conferences on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The Conference requested the Director-General to provide a follow-up report to the Board after each meeting. Document IDB.25/3, issued to the Board at its twenty-fifth session, provided information on the outcome of the former meeting and on UNIDO preparations for WSSD. The present document reports in chapter I on UNIDO's participation in and contribution to the WSSD process. Chapter II provides brief highlights to address points expressed in decision IDB.25/8 on enhancing UNIDO's profile and on cooperation within the United Nations system.

I. WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2. The World Summit on Sustainable Development took place from 26 August through 4 September 2002 at Johannesburg, South Africa. As reflected in documents GC.9/14 and IDB.25/3, preparatory activities started in 2001 at the national and regional levels and continued at the global level through several meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the preparatory committee in 2002. UNIDO Member States were kept informed throughout the preparatory period through documents to the legislative organs, briefings by the Secretariat, and circular notes to permanent missions in New York and Vienna concerning planned activities and scheduled events.

A. Outcome

3. The Summit adopted the Plan of Implementation and the Johannesburg Declaration. In addition to the negotiated outcome, it was an occasion to announce partnership initiatives ("Type 2" outcomes), which are considered an integral part of the WSSD outcome.[1] Plenary partnership dialogues focused on the areas of water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity

[1] From WSSD official web site: "non-negotiated partnerships and initiatives to implement Agenda 21 are an important element of the outcomes of WSSD. The partnerships need only be agreed by those, directly involved, who commit themselves to taking the partnerships forward and making them a success. They complement the WSSD Programme of Implementation and help translate the commitments into action."

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(WEHAB) singled out by the Secretary-General as requiring particularly urgent action, as well as on cross-sectoral issues.

4. The Summit was attended by some 100 Heads of State or Government. A total of 190 governmental delegations and numerous intergovernmental organizations as well as representatives from the "major groups" of Agenda 21 participated. In addition to the formal proceedings in Sandton Convention Centre, an exhibition was mounted at Ubuntu village, the civil society forum took place in Nasrec and water-related issues were brought into particular focus at the WaterDome.

B. UNIDO's participation and contribution

5. UNIDO's participation in and contribution to the WSSD process occurred at four levels:

- Through the statement of the Director-General to the plenary (29 August) and through the inclusion of a UNIDO representative as resource person for the "Partnership Plenaries" on cross-cutting issues (27 August) and on energy for sustainable development (28 August);
- In consultations with interested government delegations to influence the negotiated outcome as enshrined in the Plan of Implementation;
- Through elaboration and promotion of Type 2 outcomes, in particular in the areas of access to energy and technology cooperation;
- Through the UNIDO stand at Ubuntu and the joint UNIDO/GEF/IMO stand at the WaterDome (complete with public information materials), through UNIDO's own side events and through participation in side events of other stakeholders.

6. UNIDO's delegation was headed by the Director-General. UNIDO colleagues from a broad spectrum of substantive and other sections collaborated to make valuable contributions to UNIDO's overall performance at WSSD.

Formal UNIDO statements

7. In his statement to the plenary on 29 August (available on the UNIDO web site), the Director-General advocated the enhanced use of technology cooperation in support of sustainable development, so that tomorrow's challenges need not be addressed with today's means. The Director-General also participated in the Summit Round Table on 3 September on the theme "Making It Happen!".

8. In the Partnership Plenaries, scheduled for 26-28 August, which were devoted to the five priority areas identified by the Secretary-General as deserving particular attention (para. 3 above), a UNIDO representative was asked to act as a technical resource person for the sessions on cross-cutting issues and on energy. Together with the energy experts of UNDP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNIDO had been previously invited to participate in the elaboration of the WEHAB brochure on energy which was made available to the participants of the partnership plenaries and is available online (www.johannesburgsummit.org).

Networking and consulting on the negotiated outcome

9. UNIDO's networking and consultation efforts in the early stages of the global preparatory process, notably in PrepCom 2 (January 2002) and 3 (March 2002) in New York and during the Ministerial Preparatory Meeting in Bali (end of May/June 2002), contributed to the elaboration of relevant recommendations in the Plan of Implementation. As adopted at Johannesburg, the Plan of Implementation contains copious text in several areas that are of concern to UNIDO and that strengthen UNIDO's overall mandate to work for sustainable development, in particular:

- Energy for sustainable development;
- Industrial development;
- Cleaner production and eco-efficiency;
- Corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability;
- Sound management of chemicals;
- Marine ecosystems;
- Climate change;
- Montreal Protocol;
- Trade facilitation;
- Technology transfer;
- Role of specialized agencies in the pursuit of sustainable development.

10. It should be noted that the Plan of Implementation does not single out relevant actors, except in a few paragraphs where such singling out is necessary for compelling reasons.

Elaboration and promotion of partnership initiatives

11. In fulfilment of the General Conference mandate that asked the Director-General to make contributions to WSSD in those areas in which UNIDO has a comparative advantage (GC.9/Res.3), UNIDO started to elaborate proposals in early 2002 for Type 2 outcomes in the areas

of energy for sustainable development and technology cooperation.[2]

12. **The UNIDO initiative on rural energy for productive use** seeks to respond to the challenge of severe under-supply of energy services for the very poor, especially in rural and other remote areas (such as small island developing States). It was welcomed as a partner for the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) initiative (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership) and the European Union Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development. In recognition of UNIDO's comparative advantage in the field, the E-7, an association of nine large utilities from G-7 countries, expressed interest in concluding a letter of agreement with UNIDO, which was signed by the Director-General on 1 September at Johannesburg.

13. **The UNIDO initiative on technology transfer: Assessing needs—promoting action**, launched by the Director-General at WSSD on 2 September, is built on the realization that successful technology transfer requires a widespread process of local capability-building needs throughout society and, in particular, at three important levels: (a) nation; (b) sector; and (c) enterprise. It is equally essential that each country identify its technology needs in advance and manage the process of technology acquisition as effectively as possible to ensure that economic development goals are met.

14. Some 17 countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America have already engaged in the self-assessment exercise. The UNDP Special Unit for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as well as the World Business Council on Sustainable Development have indicated their readiness to contribute to the further unfolding of the initiative.

15. These UNIDO Type 2 initiatives on energy and technology cooperation, which corresponded to the criteria laid down by Member States, were officially announced in the relevant partnership forum on 30 August.

UNIDO stand at Ubuntu, exhibit at WaterDome, side events

16. A stand at the Ubuntu exhibition focused on UNIDO's cleaner production programme and on the Organization's activities in energy and technology cooperation. The stand received a steady flow of visitors, many of which requested detailed and specific information about UNIDO services. In addition, UNIDO contributed to a common system exhibit displayed in the Sandton Convention Centre and to the exhibit at the WaterDome.

17. UNIDO held its own side events:

- Rural energy for productive use, on 29 August;
- UNIDO initiative on Technology Transfer: Assessing Needs—Promoting Action, on 2 September;
- Signature of project document for the new Cleaner Production Centre in South Africa, which is co-sponsored by Austria and Switzerland. The signing was carried out by the Minister of Trade of South Africa, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Austria and Switzerland and the Director-General and gave high profile to UNIDO's presence in South Africa;
- Signature of memorandum of understanding between UNEP, ILO, UNIDO and the Government of Switzerland on the incorporation of labour issues into the work of cleaner production centres, on 3 September.

18. Despite the enormous number of parallel activities, UNIDO's side events were well attended, at times even beyond the capacity of the allocated space, and were honoured by the presence of several ministers.

19. Members of the UNIDO delegation contributed to side events organized by other stakeholders:

- Presentation of the DFID energy initiative, on 30 August;
- Activities at the WaterDome devoted to energy and water issues;
- Presentation of UNIDO's environment programmes at the Ministerial and Technical session of the Partnership Conference on Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa held at Ubuntu, on 30 August;
- Panel on private-public partnerships at the German Business Day, on 31 August;
- Joint UNIDO/GEF/IMO panel discussion on linking freshwater basins to large marine ecosystems for integrated management at the WaterDome, on 31 August;
- Presentation of the EU energy initiative at the technical level, on 30 August, and at the political level, on 1 September;
- E-7 side event on energy, on 1 September;
- Partnership Conference on Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment

[2] Additional information and several background documents for the UNIDO initiatives can be accessed from the UNIDO web site (www.unido.org/wssd).

in Sub-Saharan Africa (at level of Head of State), on 2 September;

- World Conservation Union panel on "Getting Conditions Right for Investment for Sustainable Development", on 4 September.

20. UNIDO also provided a brief presentation of its large marine ecosystem projects to members of the United States of America delegation led by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher (Rtd) at the UNIDO WaterDome stand on 1 September.

21. In addition, the Director-General and members of the UNIDO delegation availed themselves of the presence of relevant interlocutors for a series of bilateral meetings with donors, programme country representatives and colleagues from other international organizations and liaised with media representatives.

22. At the Ubuntu stand and WaterDome, at UNIDO's side events and in other focused forums the UNIDO delegation distributed information materials produced specifically for WSSD or relevant to its proceedings. The list of public information materials is shown in the annex to the present document.

II. OTHER UNIDO INVOLVEMENT IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

23. Through participation in the ECOSOC 2002 High-Level Segment, UNIDO continued its efforts to enhance the Organization's profile, strengthening its role in helping developing countries and transition economies overcome supply-side constraints and improve market access capabilities.

24. To that end, the UNIDO presentation to the preparatory Round Table on Education and Development focused on human resource development in quality and trade facilitation. This contribution was reflected in the Secretary-General's report on human resources development prepared for the High-Level Segment (E/2002/46).

25. Together with Mr. Carsten Staur, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, the Director-General co-chaired the Ministerial Round-Table Breakfast on Capacity-Building for Trade and Investment. The Director-General drew the attention of participants to the supply capacity and standards infrastructure gap in the current international initiatives to build the capacities of developing countries to participate in global trade. Capacity-building for trade was discussed in terms of strengthened ability to gain market access through knowledge of and targeting for opportunities (IDB.26/7, para. 34).

26. UNIDO continued to work with relevant stakeholders, particularly WTO, UNCTAD and ITC, to assist developing countries and economies in transition to overcome technical barriers to trade. Participating in the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, UNIDO presented its technical cooperation programme and trade facilitation initiative. In cooperation with ITC, UNIDO has started a regional programme for trade facilitation in Central America. At the Joint Advisory Group meeting of the executive heads of WTO, UNCTAD and ITC in April 2002, the Director-General invited participants to coordinate and support activities related to technical barriers to trade.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

27. The Board may wish to take note of the information provided in the present document.

Annex

**WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT—
UNIDO PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIAL**

Developing countries and technology cooperation: An industrial capacity-building perspective. Preface by Director-General and President of World Business Council for Development

Developing countries and technology cooperation: Ten business cases

Technology needs assessment (TNA) for developing countries

Innovative technology transfer framework linked to trade for UNIDO action

International technology centres: Bridging the technology divide

Assessing the uptake of environmentally sound technology in nine developing countries

Corporate social responsibility: Implications for small and medium enterprises in developing countries

Eco-efficiency for SMEs in the Moroccan dyeing industry

Overview of *Industrial Development Report 2002*

General information publications: *UNIDO in brief, UNIDO at work*